

# MEMORANDUM

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**Department of Transportation & Public Facilities**  
**Alaska Marine Highway System**

**Master's Action Circular: 12-003**

To: Masters  
All Deck Officers  
All Vessels  
Alaska Marine Highway System

Date: Thursday, July 26, 2012

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From: Captain Anthony Karvelas  
AMHS Operations Manager

Subject: **Vessel Handling  
Characteristics**

On May 7, 2012 the AMHS ferry Matanuska struck the Ocean Beauty Seafood Dock in Petersburg Alaska. This MAC is being distributed as one of the recommendations that were established from an inquiry into the incident completed on July 6, 2012.

The investigation revealed that the Master gave helm and rudder commands in an attempt to initially turn the vessel in strong currents to avoid an allision with the dock. Once it was evident that the vessel was not turning as a result of the helm and engine orders, the Master proceeded to order full astern on both engines. Although the Masters order for full astern lessened the resulting damage, it was not made early enough to avoid the allision.

Vessel Masters are reminded to take into account the varied vessels handling characteristics among the fleet and to closely consider external conditions present during maneuvering in close quarters situations. Masters are also reminded to take early and decisive action during maneuvers when the risk of allision, collision or grounding exists.

## DISTRIBUTION

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	Captain Clare fine, Port Captain (email)	
	Ed clayton, Safety Officer	
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